



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# MINUTES BOARD MEETING

DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2021

## PARTICIPANTS

- Conrad Rein – Co-Chair, European Commission
- Tristan Armstrong – Co-Chair, Australia
- Bruce Campbell – Switzerland
- Chris de Nie – The Netherlands
- Fabrizio Moscatelli – The Gates Foundation
- Federica de Gaetano – Italy
- Ingvild Langhus – Norway
- Jill Guerra – Canada
- Kai Schütz – Germany
- Manon Bellon – France
- Maurizio Bonavia – Italy
- Nikita Eriksen-Hamel – Canada
- Sanna Taivalmaa – Finland

### GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Monique Elizabeth Amar
- Lise Saga
- Jim Woodhill
- Kristal Jones

## AGENDA

Duration	Item	Details
5'	Introduction	Co-Chairs
30'	Update on White Paper	Jim Woodhill
20'	Update on the 2022 AGA	GDPRD Secretariat
30'	Budget and work plan matters	GDPRD Secretariat

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Board welcomed Canada and Norway, who were invited to participate in the Board meeting as observers.

## 2. UPDATE ON WHITE PAPER

*[Jim Woodhill]*

Presented an update on the progress of the White Paper. Interviews have been conducted with key actors from the Summit and other donors. Feedback received on the Summit revealed the picture of a glass half full/half empty. While it was acknowledged that the Summit elevated the issue of food systems within the development community and mobilized engagement and dialogues, most interviewees addressed the lack of a proper framework for moving the agenda forward. While some expressed their clear frustration around the Summit process, everyone recognized that it did create a momentum that the development community should not miss.

On the White paper, specifically:

- The paper will provide a background and introduction to the Summit process.
- It will offer a theory of change around food systems transformation and what that might mean for donors. Key areas from the Declaration of Intent were considered as starting points, to be crosscut with a set of levers of change (climate change, behavioural change, technology and infrastructure) and cross-cutting priorities (equity, rights, resilience and innovation) that were explicitly recognized by the interviewees.
- The White Paper will conclude with concrete recommendations for what role the Donor Platform can play.
- A timeline for the White Paper was presented. A draft will be shared on 7 January, for feedback from Board Members by 21 January. Approval of the final version is expected to take place by 31 January.
- The White Paper will be launched at the AGA on 7 March.

*[Australia]*

- The outline of the White Paper aligns with the messages from the Donor round table event which took place on 14 December. The White Paper will be an important resource to summarize key lessons from the Summit journey to take forward for individual donors and for the donor community.
- Board members were asked about how they wanted the Platform to position itself in the food systems landscape. It was underlined how the Summit process needs to be understood within the broader 2030 development agenda.

*[Switzerland]*

- The amount of work that has been put into the White Paper process was recognised. Nevertheless, results from the analysis are very similar to those the Platform had before the Summit, with the areas of focus already identified in the Declaration of Intent. The findings from the outcomes of the Summit should lead to a new set of priorities.
- The Platform could cross-tabulate a broader engagement in the various coalitions.

[*Jim Woodhill*]

- There is a need to be clear about the distinction between what the Platform should do and the menu of options that the White Paper will offer for the broader donor community.

[*Finland*]

- Engaging with Coalitions can be challenging, based on their diverse working methods and the lack of activity. Mapping of Member States' involvement in coalitions might not bring much information at the moment.
- There is a risk of losing momentum with the complicated structure of the Summit follow-up mechanisms.

[*Switzerland*]

- As a response, it was emphasised how the Donor Platform should not be moving the coalitions forward - it is up to the countries in the coalitions to decide and link to the country levels. The Donor Platform could rather take on a cross-tabulating role, to map the repetitive commonalities between the coalitions to coordinate efforts on these particular areas.

[*France*]

- There is an interest in identifying the commonalities for the outcomes of Summit processes. The levers of change and cross-cutting priorities that have been recognized in the White Paper development should be relevant for the follow-up process.
- To add to the outline of the White Paper, the section on the Summit outcomes should mention the follow-up structures and mechanisms of the Summit, which are central to the aftermath and way ahead.
- A suggestion was made to shift the order, to open the White Paper with the Summit outcomes, and after that recognize the challenges of translating the outcomes into actions. That should strengthen the action-oriented focus of the White Paper.
- The Science Paper from the Summit is mentioned in the outline for the Summit Summary, but the Paper should not give the impression that the Science Group is the only science interface working on food systems.

[*Maurizio*]

- The GDPRD aims to create an action agenda for 2022, and there needs to be a reflection on the balance between the structural and the thematic outcomes of the Summit, and those related to the food systems agenda in general, going beyond the Summit.

[*Jim Woodhill*]

- Rather than thinking that there needs to be a grand plan from the UN coordinating system, donors should be thinking about how they can support different innovations that will come together to initiate the needed food systems transformation. Thinking of how donors can contribute in a networked way, rather than a highly coordinated, top-down way, can be useful to ensure the initiative of donors in bringing forward an agenda on food systems and to create a systemic change.
- The Donor Platform can serve as a useful hub to share interesting, substantive ideas, initiatives, and innovation to ensure that donors can support systems change – by supporting networking in coalitions and by being a conduit between the UN coordinating mechanisms and donors.

[*Italy*]

- The Platform should leverage on its uniqueness by focusing on agricultural and rural development.

### 3. UPDATE ON THE 2022 AGA

[Michelle Tang]

- The draft concept note of the AGA was circulated to all Board members.
- The AGA will occur as a hybrid event on 7-8 March, at the IFAD headquarters in Rome, in the Italian and Oval rooms, with online Zoom participation. At current capacity limits, the rooms can accommodate 57 people, with the potential for an additional 27 people in meeting rooms, if needed.
- Because of the Summit, 2021 focused mostly on food systems transformation, accelerating progress toward SDG2 and Agenda 2030, particularly on how food systems transformation cannot be achieved through isolated sectoral approaches. This was recognized by the GDPRD's Stocktaking Report and Declaration of Intent.
- The 2022 AGA will focus on setting an action agenda on food systems, with special attention to the country-level national pathways through donor coordination, leveraging finance, and improved data.
- The AGA will include participants from governments, international organizations, agribusiness companies, academic and research organizations, think tanks, NGOs, civil society, farmers organizations, and special attention to rural youth organizations.
- Highlights of the AGA include:
  - Making sure that all sessions have a working dimension (e.g., breakout rooms)
  - Focus on developing concrete strategies for donors.
  - Launch of the White Paper (which will be distributed to participants beforehand)
- The proposed programme will include the following sessions:
  - Session 1 (day 1) overarching theme: Supporting national food systems transformation pathways: how can donor effectiveness and coordination be enhanced at country level?
  - Session 2 (day 1): Improving data systems for better decision-making (by Ceres2030 and 50X2030)
  - Session 3 (day 2): Leveraging finance for food systems transformation: exploring the catalytic role of donors in the financing environment
  - Sessions 4 in parallel (day 2):
    - Land Governance and Food Systems (by the Thematic Working Group on Land Governance)
    - Rural Youth Employment and Food Systems (by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment)
  - Concluding session (day 2): Implications for country food systems transformation pathways, closing remarks from the co-chairs and the secretariat

[Jim Woodhill]

- These sessions will discuss practical, country-level strategies. The idea is to move from the abstract concepts and talk about on-the-ground practice.

[Australia]

- The organizing group appreciates suggestions for potential speakers to be included in the AGA.

[Canada]

- The old GDPRD archives has examples of past successes in country-level coordination. Looking at best practice case studies could help guide donor dialogue and coordination (suggested Vietnam).

[Australia]

- It would be useful for the AGA to welcome donor representatives who are particularly active in selected countries, for them to showcase country examples. Madagascar and Senegal are possibilities.

#### **4. BUDGET AND WORK PLAN MATTERS**

*[Maurizio Navarra]*

In previous years, the budget and workplan was presented at the beginning of a year, during the first Board meeting. For this year, the secretariat and the Co-Chairs decided to present a review of past year during the last Board session, which will also help build on the feedback when drafting the 2022 work plan and budget.

The Secretariat provided a summary of 2021 contributions received:

- All members have paid their membership fees in 2021. The Secretariat is grateful to all Board members for honouring their commitments in 2021.
- We appreciate the commitment of some members, who have agreed to subscribe to long-term financing agreements, since they ensure the predictability and sustainability of our financial resources.
- USAID is providing dedicated resources for two working groups (SGD2 Roadmap group and Land Governance group).
- Norway provided in-kind contribution, by paying the salary of an intern.
- As part of the 2021 work plan, the Secretariat committed to reflect on a resource mobilization strategy to secure new members in the Board, which has been a continuous process. In 2021 the Secretariat reached out to Canada, Norway, Japan and Sweden. In 2022, it plans to reach out to South Korea, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.
- New membership will increase our budget, but also strengthen our capacity and improve results and impact.

The budget for 2021 was presented, with a detailed overview of expenditures. The savings from this year will be carried forward to the 2022 budget.

*[France]*

- For the next budget, will the funds be carried over to 2023 in case there are additional savings due to the continuing pandemic restrictions next year?

*[Maurizio Navarra]*

- We will have to make a plan in case there are savings next year.

A summary of the achievements of the 2021 workplan was presented and detailed.

- In 2020, the “new” Secretariat hosted at IFAD promised to deliver a results-based workplan, with clear outcomes, outputs, activities, and targets.
- The 2021 workplan was presented in February and had to be adjusted to the pandemic-related changes.
- The achievements under each outcome area were presented. Highlights included:
  - The Stocktaking Report and the Declaration of Intent, which were the Platform’s contributions to the Food Systems Summit.
  - The Senior managers meeting, held in September
  - The several communications products that were disseminated (i.e., e-newsletters, event reports, annual report). Several communication activities had to be reprogrammed in 2022, given that the Communications Officer was only onboarded in August. Reformulation of the communications strategy is planned for 2022.
  - There has been high activity among the thematic working groups.
- The Secretariat is currently fully staffed.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Feedback on White Paper Draft	7 - 21 January	Board Members
2	Approval of White Paper	31 January	Board Members
3	Topic proposals for TWG sessions at the AGA	End of January	Thematic Working Groups on Land Governance and Rural Youth Employment
3	Propose prospective speakers and panellists for the AGA	January	All